

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. 41-A _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

JANUARY 16, 2007

Over the last year, the Los Angeles County Probation Department has initiated a major effort to reform its strategies relating to the juvenile justice system. With the resources provided by the Board of Supervisors, the County has hired over 300 new Probation staff to support the improvement of the conditions in our Juvenile Halls as well as implementing the ongoing redesign of the Juvenile Camps. The new Probation approach is to move away from a custodial philosophy to a community treatment philosophy with the intent to reduce recidivism. This is being pursued by developing programs that integrate evidence-based practices and community corrections.

While these County efforts are ongoing, the Governor has pronounced a new juvenile justice initiative as part of his criminal justice reform package. This plan seeks to shift a substantial number of wards presently housed in the State Juvenile Facilities to County custody. While the Governor's plan appears to include financial support for Counties, and may indeed create opportunities to improve the treatment of these wards, the proposed transfer of this population could negatively impact our ongoing reform efforts by imposing additional burdens upon our facilities, as well as other County resources. In addition, it isn't clear where state and county responsibilities will be

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differentiated, and it raises concerns that the State appears to be changing course on this important issue without benefit of consultation or planning with the County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer, Robert Taylor, be directed to investigate and assess the proposed state initiative, as well as analyze its impact on County resources and our ongoing reform efforts; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Probation Officer be directed to prepare a report with his assessment, analysis, and recommendations for presentation to the Board within 30 days.

JC/LM: Governor's DJJ Initiative